

Serial No. 10/673,723
Art Unit 3725

Amendment B After Final

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A winder arrangement for a strapping machine of the type for positioning a strap material around an associated load when in a feed mode and tensioning the strap material and sealing the strap material to itself around the load when in a tensioning mode, the strapping machine including a frame, a strap material supply and a strapping head, the strapping machine defining a strap path from the strap material supply to the strapping head, the strapping head including a feed element for conveying the strap material during a feed mode in a first direction around the load and for conveying the strap material in a second direction to tension the strap material around the load, the winder arrangement comprising:

a rotating winder for tensioning the material around the load, the winder having a peripheral strap path and a central strap path, the strap material moving through the central strap path when the strap material is conveyed in the first and second directions and wrapping around the peripheral strap path after the strap material has moved in the second direction and when in the tensioning mode; and

a winder arm configured for cooperation with the winder, the winder arm biased to rest against the winder to direct strap material to a predetermined region of the strapping machine: when the strapping machine transitions from the rewind mode to the feed mode, the winder arm configured to remain in continuous contact with the winder peripheral strap path as the winder rotates.

2. (Original) The winder arrangement in accordance with claim 1 including a roller mounted to an end of the winder arm for resting against the winder.

3. (Original) The winder arrangement in accordance with claim 1 wherein the winder arm is mounted to the strapping machine frame about a pivot, and wherein the winder arm is biased by a spring operably connected to the winder arm intermediate the pivot and a free end of the winder arm.

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4. (Original) The winder arrangement in accordance with claim 3 including a roller mounted to the free end of the winder arm.

5. (Original) The winder arrangement in accordance with claim 3 wherein the spring is a coil spring.

6. (Currently amended) A strapping machine configured to position a strap material around an associated load when in a feed mode and to tension the strap material and seal the strap material to itself around the load when in a tensioning mode, comprising:

a frame;

a strap material supply;

a strapping head, a strap path being defined from the strap material supply to the strapping head, the strapping head including a feed element for conveying the strap material during the feed mode in a first direction around the load and for conveying the strap material in a second, opposite direction to tension the strap material around the load, the strapping head including a rotating winder for tensioning the material around the load, the winder having a peripheral strap path and a central strap path, the strap material moving through the central strap path when the strap material is conveyed in the first and second directions and wrapping around the peripheral strap path after the strap material has moved in the second direction and when in the tensioning mode, the strapping head further including a winder arm configured to cooperate with the winder, the winder arm biased to rest against the winder to direct strap material to a predetermined region of the strapping machine when the strapping machine transitions from the rewind mode to the feed mode, the winder arm configured to remain in continuous contact with the winder peripheral strap path as the winder rotates.

7. (Original) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 6 wherein the winder arm is mounted to the strapping machine frame about a pivot, and wherein the winder arm is biased by a spring operably connected to the winder arm intermediate the pivot and a free

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end of the winder arm.

8. (Original) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 7 wherein the winder arm includes a roller mounted to an end thereof, the roller configured to rest against the winder.

9. (Currently amended) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 6 wherein the spring is a coil spring.